9. A system as in claim 8 wherein said monitoring means disables said decrypting means from operating unless said memory device is operatively engaged thereto.

10. A system as in claim 1 wherein said control means comprises:

memory means for storing usage information;

monitoring means, operatively connected to said decrypting means and also connected to said memory means, for metering at least one of (a) the quantity of information decrypted by said decrypting means, (b) an identification of a subset of information stored on said medium containing said identified portions, and (c) duration of at least one of searching, identifying, decrypting, reading and using of said database portions, for generating signals indicating the result of said metering, and storing said generated signals in said memory means; and

means operatively connected to said decrypting means and to said memory means for preventing said decrypting means from decrypting information whenever said metered indicating signals are not successfully stored in said memory means.

11. A system as in claim 1 wherein said control and communicating means includes:

a memory; and

monitoring means, operatively connected to said decrypting means and to a communications network, for monitoring the quantity of at least one of: (a) information decrypted by said decrypting means and (b) information identified by said searching means, for controlling said signal communicating means to communicate an indication of said monitoring to a billing facility over said communications network.

12. A system as in claim 11 wherein said monitoring means also determines identifying characteristics of at least one of (a) said decrypted portions and (b) said identified portions and controls said signal communicating means to communicate said identifying characteristics to said billing facility.

13. A system as in claim 1 wherein:

said at least one storage medium also stores unencrypted index information correlating unencrypted search information with portions of said encrypted database.

14. A system as in claim 1 wherein:

said at least one storage medium also stores encrypted index information correlating search information with portions of said encrypted database.

15. A system as in claim 1 further including:

a first memory means, operatively connected to said decrypting means, for storing said decrypted information; and

a second memory means, operatively connected to said metering and communicating means and different from said first memory means, for storing said metered usage.

16. A secure database access system as in claim 1 wherein said control means includes means for using said decrypted information and means for metering the duration over which at least one of: (a) said decrypting means decrypts said read encrypted information, (b) said using means uses said decrypted information and (c) said searching means searches said at least one database.

17. A system as in claim 1 wherein:

said at least one database stored by said at least one storage medium is divided into plural discrete subdivisions:

said control means includes means for determining the subdivisions said selected portions are derived from; and

said metering means includes means for telecommunicating signals indicating said determined subdivisions.

18. A system as in claim 1 wherein said control means measures the duration of usage of said decrypted information, and wherein said metering means includes means for storing said measured duration.

19. A system as in claim 1 wherein said control means stores said identifications and/or measurements, said control means including means for inhibiting said decrypting means from further decrypting said database whenever said memory device becomes filled and means for resetting said memory device in response to said certain information received from said distant location.

20. A secure data base access system comprising:

at least one storage medium storing at least one textual database component and at least one index associated with said component;

input means for providing database index search criteria in response to user input;

searching means connected to said at least one storage medium and to said input means for searching said database, including reading means for referencing said index based on said search criteria, for identifying portions of said database in response to said index referencing, and for reading one of (a) all of said identified database portions, and (b) desired ones of said identified database portions from said at least one storage medium; and

control means connected to said reading means for metering usage of information read by said reading means and for preventing said reading means from reading more than at least one predetermined percentage of said at least one database in response to said meter usage,

wherein:

said at least one storage medium stores at least one scrambled directory of the location of the contents of at least one of (a) said at least one index, and (b) said at least one database as stored on said at least one medium; and

said reading means includes means for descrambling said at least one scrambled directory and reading said identified database portions from said medium in a manner determined by said descrambled at least one directory.

21. A secure data base access system comprising:

at least one storage medium storing at least one textual database in encrypted form, said at least one database including at least one collection of textual information, said at least one storage medium also storing index information, said index information correlating portions of said at least one encrypted database with search information;

at least one host signal processor, operatively connected to said at least one storage medium, said at least one processor preprogrammed so as to: (a) accept search criteria in response to user input thereto, (b) search said index information, (c) identify, in accordance with said search of index information, the portions of said at least one encrypted